

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the
Tonopah Bonanza Publishing Co., Inc.



W. W. BOOTH, Editor and Manager

Member Nevada Press Association.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION BY MAIL

One Year	\$12.00	Three Months	\$3.50
Nine Months	10.00	One Month	1.25
Six Months	6.75	One Week	.30

Delivered by Carrier \$1.25 Per Month

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Entered at the Postoffice in Tonopah as Second-class Matter.

For President---1912
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT,
Of Ohio.

NO DISCRIMINATION IN CANAL.

The effect of preferential treatment of American vessels in the Panama canal would be the encouragement of monopoly in transportation from ocean to ocean. That such a statement is logical is our conclusion after a careful study of the problem that has arisen from the demand of American shipowners for exemption from the payment of tolls. The question will be settled by congress when it provides for the maintenance and administration of the canal, but there is every prospect that it will be the occasion of a bitter fight to the end.

The canal is being dug to facilitate the movement of commerce between the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts and at the same time to put the exporters of this country into better communication with the markets of Europe and the Orient. The purpose of the government is not to make it possible for American vessels by virtue of the advantage they would enjoy were they relieved of the payment of tolls to destroy any chance of competition.

It is argued that the preference would supply an incentive to shipbuilding in this country and tend to restore the merchant marine. For no such reason should it be granted.

The American flag has virtually disappeared from the sea, but an arrangement that would be unjust to the consumers interested in the movement of products from coast to coast will not put it back at the mastheads of shipping vessels.

Other policies of government operate against extensive commerce under the American flag and until they are discontinued there can be no improvement. The tariff on shipbuilding materials is one; the coastwise navigation laws constitute another. It is absurd that there be any duty at all on any of the materials used in the construction of a vessel and yet the schedules are so prohibitive that Americans cannot compete with the foreign builders. Supplementing this unjust restriction is that law confining American registry to vessels actually constructed in the United States and the result is that the American shipbuilder is roped and tied.

If congress desires to restore the merchant marine, let it revoke these duties and allow the registration of foreign-built craft. Such reforms would serve the purpose. But let it not violate the spirit of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and subject those millions of Americans who expect to benefit by the freedom of commerce possible after the opening of the canal to the monopoly that would surely result from discrimination in the collection of tolls. If passage through the canal is to be free for any it should be free for all.—Sacramento Union.

Foreign trade continues to improve and the excess of exports over imports grows fast in spite of some increase in imports as shown by the government reports for the month of February. Exports in that month amounted to \$196,837,864, as compared with \$175,957,306 in February, 1911; while last February's imports were \$134,207,730, as compared with \$121,694,740 in February, 1911. For the first eight months of the respective fiscal years the figures are: 1912 exports, \$1,505,990,343; 1911 exports, \$1,434,540,355; 1912 imports, \$1,047,149,534; 1911 imports, \$1,015,736,127. The trade balance in favor of this country as represented by the excess of exports for the eight months ended February 29 last was therefore \$458,840,789. The increase in imports was almost wholly due to larger purchases of foodstuffs abroad for consumption in this country, of which potatoes now form an important part.

Charges and countercharges of primary and convention vote-buying recall the defense offered by a Tennessee legislator when accused of casting his vote contrary to his pre-election promise and against the instruction from his constituents. "I aimed to vote right," he pleaded, "but, dog-gone 'em, they bought me out!"

Roosevelt may find it easy to "bolt" the republican national convention, but it will be hard for him to have to swallow what is going to happen to him there.

WHAT LIES AHEAD OF MEXICO?

That Madero will not long be able to remain in power is the prospect that lies ahead of the Mexican republic. His hold has been weakened and the repeated successes of the rebels have gradually broken down the defense he has interposed between them and the capital. It is our prediction that within a few weeks he will have either resigned or been driven from office and perhaps from the country.

President Madero is charged with having betrayed the people. Arrogant and inordinately selfish in office, he has turned upon those who helped him to win, is the accusation, and has refused even to consider reforms proposed in the interest of the popular welfare.

But what is to follow his abdication or enforced retirement? The question is one that concerns Americans, perhaps, as much as it does Mexicans, for Americans realize how the situation will affect this country.

General Orozco, the rebel leader, would be intolerable as president; Gomez would be little better, as far as ability to administer the affairs of the office is concerned; De la Barra would at once array a large part of the people against him.

And so, however this revolution terminates, it is almost certain that another will closely follow it and that a condition of chaos lies ahead.

Under such circumstances the course of the United States must be determined with the greatest care. There are many thousands of Americans in Mexico whose lives are in danger and whose property interests are estimated to be worth at least \$900,000,000. The protection of them therefore becomes a problem that calls for cautious statesmanship.

Some believe that intervention will be necessary, that only by a military movement across the border will it be possible to restore order and stop the slaughter. This is no time to say that such action will not be the only resort of this government, for day by day the feeling against the Americans is growing more intense. Dislike has given way to hatred and the Mexican's passions and emotions generally break over all control.

It is to be hoped that the use of the army can be avoided, but this nation must protect its people and their property at all hazards.

It is unjust to ask Americans to desert legitimate homes and places of business. They must be guaranteed safety wherever they are living within the law.

WISE COURSE OF PRESIDENT TAFT.

The wisdom of President Taft, manifested strikingly in relation to a vast number of problems which have been presented to the nation since his inauguration, is shown most clearly in his attitude toward the Mexican situation. Acquainting himself with the actual character of the problem, in all its bearings, as is the custom of the president in matters of great moment, he took the course which promised to avoid complications that threatened to precipitate a war that could not but be long and costly in treasure and lives. The fact that the 14,000,000 Mexicans are, for the most part, Indians, of nature and temperament similar to those of the American Indians who gave this country so much trouble through many decades before their suppression could be effected, constituted one serious phase of the problem, while the desirability of avoiding anything which might arouse the suspicion of the Central American and South American republics was another.

The firm stand taken by the president, says the San Francisco Post, and his prompt dispatch of troops to the border, served to impress upon the warring factions in the disturbed country the desirability of protecting the lives and safety of the Americans and other foreigners. In the stopping of the shipment of arms across the border, to be placed in the hands of all manner of irresponsible persons, President Taft put an end to one of the chief sources of danger to American interests.

More recently, having compelled the weakling president of the country to admit that he could not guarantee the absolute safety of Americans, even in the City of Mexico, because of the inability of the authorities to control certain rabid elements of the populace, President Taft arranged for the arming of all responsible Americans for their own defense in case of need. President Madero was compelled to acquiesce in this arrangement.

The results of the general policy pursued, in the saving of American lives and a vast amount of American property in Mexico, as well as the appalling cost of garrisoning the country for many years, as would have been necessary in the event of intervention, is in marked contrast to what might have occurred if any man lacking the wisdom, calm judgment and executive ability of William Howard Taft had been president of the United States.

Canada is trying to secure reciprocal free trade with the British West Indies, and representatives of all the islands except Jamaica and Grenada are now on their way to Ottawa to attend a conference at which such an agreement will be prepared, if possible. Jamaica prefers closer trade relations with the United States if they can be got, and seems to be disinclined to tie herself up with Canada in this way. It is not improbable that the whole reciprocity question will be reopened in Canada before long, and any agreement with the West Indies would not stand in the way. Liberal subsidies for steamship lines plying between Canadian and West Indian ports are included in the plan.

The insanity defense which a few of Roosevelt's grieving friends have advanced to account for his preposterous conduct and speech in the past few weeks is repudiated by the Colonel himself. It is expected that he will demand a jury trial.

Ah, the craze for figures. In literature, the five-foot bookshelf; in dramatics, the twelve-pound look; and in politics, the fourteen-foot ballot.

Long about 1925 the Virginia posse may be expected to finish the operation known to headline writers as "closing in on Allen outlaw band."

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